

# Guidance Criteria for Off-Stream Water Supplies for Livestock

Water Quality Program requests your assistance. See background and **Advice and Guidance Requested** below, and provide comments to Dan Filip at [dfil461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:dfil461@ecy.wa.gov) by April 30, 2004.

## Background:

With limited grant funds available, WAC 173-95A-060 (8) (c) (the Centennial Rule) limited eligibility of BMPs on private property to revegetation or fence construction and where a public easement is given by the landowner. The general public, the Financial Assistance Council (FAC), and PMT were all intimately involved in the development of the rule. During 2003, FAC and PMT reviewed the rule and associated issues and interpreted that it was appropriate and within the intent of the rule that the fencing provision should be extended to small (livestock only) bridges to provide for cattle movement over rather than through streams. However, no program management consideration was given to off-stream watering provisions associated with eligible fencing and revegetation projects. Such provisions may have water resources issues associated regardless of whether or not financial assistance is provided.

## WQ PMT Decision:

Off-stream watering may be provided if needed for livestock as part of an eligible fencing and revegetation project. These projects will be considered on a case-by-case basis according to the cost-effective alternative (e.g., nose pump, gap, hauling, well) identified in an approved farm plan. For projects where it is not feasible topographically to install a conventional fence, then these projects will be considered on a case-by-case basis according to the cost-effective alternative (e.g., nose pump, gap, hauling, well) identified in an approved farm plan.

The Water Quality Program Activities Workgroup, with members of the Financial Assistance Council invited and encouraged to participate, will develop a draft policy and procedure on how to evaluate these projects on a case-by-case basis and determine how much money will be allotted toward wells (e.g., installation, wind mills and electrical power, etc.) The draft policy will be provided for review and comment to PMT for approval.

## Advice and Guidance Requested:

- Cost effectiveness criteria
- Limits on distance to water body of off-site provision
- Financial assistance limits and other provisions (e.g., windmills, maximum grant cost, provision of power, etc.)
- Others